

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-03

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, EGEN, UNITAR

SUBJECT: VOTING STRATEGY ON ECONOMIC ISSUES

REF: (A) USUN 3918, (B) USUN 3963

FROM AMBASSADOR BUFFUM

WE APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT PROVOKING MESSAGE (REF A) REGARD-
ING YOUR PROPOSALS CONCERNING AN OVERALL VOTING STRATEGY
ON ECONOMIC ISSUES ARISING DURING THIS GA. WE HAVE GIVEN
THIS MATTER CAREFUL AND LENGTHY CONSIDERATION AND ARE
RELIEVED THAT CONTACT GROUP ON UNITAR RESOLUTION (REF B)
WILL CONTINUE MEETING ON OCTOBER 14 SO THAT VOTE IS NOT
AS IMMINENT AS ORIGINALLY EXPECTED.

REF A DOES GIVE US SOME PROBLEMS ON VARIOUS POINTS IT
RAISES.

1. ON SUBSTANCE OF UNITAR RESOLUTION ITSELF, PARA 3

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"EXPRESSES HOPE THAT INSTITUTE WILL HAVE GREATER AND

WIDER FINANCIAL SUPPORT"; OVER THE YEARS SINCE ITS INCEPTION. US HAS BEEN PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTOR (\$400,000 A YEAR SINCE 1967) AND HAS BEEN UNITAR'S STRONGEST SUPPORTER. WE HAVE MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT OVER TIME TO FOCUS AND STRENGTHEN ITS PROGRAMS AND BELIEVE WE ARE NOW SUCCEEDING IN THIS GOAL. FOR US TO VOTE AGAINST A RESOLUTION, AS USUN RECOMMENDS, WHICH ASKS FOR MORE FUNDS FOR UNITAR COULD BE MISINTERPRETED BY OTHER UNITAR SUPPORTERS,

PARTICULARLY AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE IT AWKWARD FOR US TO CONTINUE OUR CONTRIBUTIONS AS WE PRESENTLY PLAN TO DO.

2. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SUGGESTION THAT WE SHOULD SUPPORT A "NO" VOTE FOR UNITAR NOW ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WOULD ABSTAIN ON ALL FUTURE RESOLUTIONS REFERRING TO THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER AND PLAN OF ACTION. THIS IS IN EFFECT TYING OUR HANDS IN ADVANCE AND WE PREFER TO RETAIN A CERTAIN FLEXIBILITY ON THIS ISSUE WITH REGARD TO FUTURE RESOLUTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE WE DO NOT CURRENTLY FORESEE A "SERIES OF NO VOTES" AUTOMATICALLY COMING OUT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF CONTINUED REFERENCE TO THE PLAN OF ACTION AND THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. IN BOTH ECOSOC AND AT UNCTAD'S TDB, THE US DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO FOCUS LANGUAGE ON PLAN OF ACTION TO TWO RESOLUTIONS IN ECOSOC AND ONE RESOLUTION AT UNCTAD. THIS FOCUSING PROVED VERY USEFUL, AND KEPT THIS LANGUAGE FROM SPILLING OVER TO OTHER ECOSOC AND UNCTAD ISSUES. WE SUGGEST THAT SAME TACTICS SHOULD AT LEAST BE EXPLORED IN CASE OF SECOND COMMITTEE IN EFFORT TO AVOID CONCERNS EXPRESSED REFTEL A.

4. PAST VOTING EXPERIENCE IN COMMITTEE TWO HAS SHOWN THAT NORMAL TACTICAL VOTING PATTERN ON ECONOMIC ISSUES HAS BEEN TO TAKE HARD LINE IN COMMITTEE WITH A "NO" VOTE AND THEN TRY TO IMPROVE LANGUAGE OF OFFENDING RESOLUTION THROUGH CARROT OF ABSTENTION IN PLENARY RATHER THAN REVERSE PROCEDURE SUGGESTED REFTEL.

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5. WE ALSO PUZZLED AT TIMING OF VOTES EXPECTED ON "30 RESOLUTIONS ON DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS". IN PAST, AT LEAST, MANY OF THESE HAVE COME UP LATE IN SESSION, OFTEN AFTER RESUMED ECOSOC. THIS COULD BE CASE THIS YEAR WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT POLITICAL ISSUES COULD WELL HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF BY THAT TIME SO THAT PERHAPS ADVERSE POLITICAL IMPACT SUGGESTED WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE

UNTIL END OF GA. IF SO, TACTIC OF ABSTAINING ON ALL
SUCH RESOLUTIONS WOULD BE LESS EFFECTIVE AND SINGLE NO
VOTE NOW ON UNITAR CONCEIVABLY COULD GIVE WRONG POLITICAL
SIGNAL ON SUCH ISSUES AS KHMER REPUBLIC AND KOREAN
QUESTION.

ON BALANCE, AFTER FULL REVIEW OF ISSUES HERE, WE PREFER
TO LET PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS RE UNITAR STAND, I.E., USUN
SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REACH COMPROMISE ON PRESENT
UNITAR RESOLUTION BUT IF THAT FAILS IS AUTHORIZED TO
VOTE AGAINST OFFENDING PARAGRAPH CONCERNING NEW ECONOMIC
ORDER AND ABSTAIN ON RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE.

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